

Message Text

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43

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC:

SUBJECT: GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE - REVIEW OF CONSULAR
PROTECTION OF US CITIZENS DURING CRISIS.

1. AT REQUEST OF SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES, GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE HAS INITIATED REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT'S AND FOREIGN SERVICE'S DISCHARGE OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO EXTEND CONSULAR PROTECTION TO US CITIZENS ABROAD DURING PERIODS OF CRISES. ONE SPECIFIC "CRISIS" OF GAO INTEREST IS CONSULAR PROTECTION EXTENDED TO CITIZENS DURING PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 1973 CHILE COUP.

2. GAO TEAM HAS BEGUN REVIEW OF PERTINENT DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS AND PLANS VISIT SANTIAGO FOR TWO WEEKS BEGINNING LATE NOVEMBER. TEAM ALSO WANTS TO INTERVIEW SAMPLE OF AMERICANS WHO WITNESSED OR WERE PERSONALLY AFFECTED BY GOC ACTIONS AND EMBASSY'S RESPONSES DURING THAT "CRISIS". AS APPROPRIATE, SOME INTERVIEWS WILL OCCUR IN CHILE AND OTHERS IN US OR ELSEWHERE.

3. IN PREPARATION FOR GAO VISIT, EMBASSY SHOULD ORGANIZE ITS OFFICIAL AND ANY UNOFFICIAL FILES/RECORDS FOR REVIEW BY GAO TEAM. PLEASE ADVISE IF ANY RECORDS HAVE BEEN RETIRED

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TO US, DESTROYED OR OTHERWISE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

4. FOR GAO'S USE NOW BEFORE VISIT AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN CHILE, EMBASSY REQUESTED COMPLETE FOLLOWING LISTS OF

NAMES. INCLUDE BEST CURRENT ADDRESS OR WHEREABOUTS OF ANY PERSON WHO WILL NOT BE IN CHILE AT TIME OF VISIT. AS PERTINENT, ADD IDENTIFYING BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

(A) NAMES OF MISSION AMERICAN PERSONNEL WHO PARTICIPATED IN CONSULAR PROTECTION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES DURING COUP PERIOD AND INDICATE SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES.

(B) NAMES OF FSL EMPLOYEES WHO ASSISTED IN PROTECTION WORK. (C) NAMES OF NON-EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WHO MAY HAVE SERVED AS VOLUNTEERS IN EMBASSY ASSISTING IN CONSULAR PROTECTION, SUCH AS BY INTERVIEWING AMERICANS SEEKING HELP. (D) NAMES OF AMERICANS HELD IN NATIONAL STADIUM.

(E) NAMES OF OTHER AMERICANS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES AT SOMETIME DURING COUP. (F) NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO ASKED EMBASSY FOR PROTECTION DURING COUP. (G) NAMES OF ANY AMERICAN WHO OBTAINED OR SOUGHT ASSYLUM OR REFUGE IN FOREIGN EMBASSIES OR US EMBASSY.

5. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES COMPLETION ABOVE LISTS MAY BE DIFFICULT. IF ANY LISTS TOO VOLUMINOUS FOR NORMAL TELEGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION, STATE NUMBER OF PERSONS AFFECTED AND PROVIDE SAMPLE NAMES OF PERSONS NOW BELIEVED TO BE IN US. AS THIS INFORMATION DESIRED SOONEST, LISTS CAN BE SENT IN SEPARATE TELEGRAMS AND BE AMENDED BY SUPPLEMENTAL MESSAGES.

6. FURTHER BACKGORUND ON AUTHORITY OF GAO TEAM AND GUIDANCE FOR EMBASSY COOPERATION WILL BE SUBJECT SEPARATE TELEGRAM. INGERSOLL

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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